



**DELAWARE HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES**
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

To: Lt Governor Matt Denn

From: John Harvey, DPH Bureau of Contracts and Grants

Date: July 27, 2009

Re: ARRA Stimulus Funds: Primary Care Services Resource Coordination and Development Grant/Primary Care Office (PCO) Grant Application Summary

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will provide \$6 million over the next three years (FY 2009, FY 2010 and FY 2010) to states for “strengthening the primary care workforce administered through the National Health Service Corps (NHSC).” The Delaware PCO is eligible for approximately \$27,120 of this funding over each of the next three years (totaling \$81,360). The grant guidance should be released July 30, 2009 and the application is tentatively due August 15, 2009. The project should begin on or before September 30, 2009.

Delaware, like other states, is experiencing a shortage of health professionals. Fifty-one percent of Delawareans reside in a federally designated Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA); forty-five percent reside in a dental HPSA; and twenty-one percent reside in a mental health HPSA. A variety of health recruitment programs are currently available in the state, including the Conrad State 30/J-1 Visa Waiver Program, the National Health Service Corps Program (NHSC) and the State Loan Repayment Program. These funds will be utilized to educate health care entities about these programs and also to attract clinicians to practice in Delaware.

As the grant guidance has not been released yet, plans have not been solidified. Staff will collaborate with local healthcare advocates/entities to determine the best ways to utilize this funding, including the Primary Care Association/Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, the Delaware Health Care Commission and the Federally Qualified Health Centers. Preliminary discussions include 1) conducting a health career fair that targets not just those completing an education in a health field, but also those who may work in another field now but have a desire to work in a medical field; 2) conducting a recruitment training which would educate health care entities about recruitment and retention of NHSC clinicians, Conrad State 30/J-1 Visa Waiver Program physicians and State Loan Repayment clinicians; and 3) developing brochures/packets of information designed to market Delaware to prospective clinicians by demonstrating quality of life issues and listing the opportunities available here.

